

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/767,093

Examiner

Minerva Rivero

Applicant(s)

SCHMID ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/06/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 December 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Responding to the Office Action mailed 9/01/2004, in the Remarks filed on 12/06/2004, Applicant amended claims 1-2 and 8, and submitted arguments to traverse the rejection of claims 1-24. These amendments and arguments have successfully overcome the rejection of claims 1-24. Since no new art warranting claim rejection has been found the claims are allowed, the reasons given next.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-24 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. Regarding claim 1, Alshawi (US Patent 5,870,706) discloses a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

receiving at least one instruction to add a new phrase and semantic information associated with the new phrase to a recognition grammar (Col. 2, Lines 39-41) and

combining the new phrase with at least one other phrase in the grammar to form a single grammar structure (Col. 5, Lines 50-51).

However, Alshawi does not disclose nor fairly suggest associating the semantic information with a single recognition value in the new phrase by selecting the first possible recognition value in the new phrase that can be associated with the semantic information without introducing semantic ambiguity into the grammar structure.

4. Claims 2-12 are allowed because they further limit their parent claim.

5. Regarding claim 13, Alshawi discloses a speech recognition interface for a speech recognition engine, the interface comprising:

a grammar structure building component that receives instructions to add transitions to a grammar structure and in response adds transitions to a grammar structure (Col. 5, Lines 34-39).

However, Alshawi does not disclose nor fairly suggest a semantic placement component that places semantic information associated with a current sequence of transitions on a first transition in the grammar structure that differentiates the current sequence of transitions from all other sequences of transitions in the grammar structure.

6. Claims 14-20 are allowed because they further limit their parent claim.

7. Regarding claim 21, Alshawi discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions representing a speech-enabled application (Col. 3, Lines 52-58), but fails to disclose nor fairly suggest:

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receiving semantic information associated with a hypothesis word identified by a speech recognition engine before an entire utterance has been recognized;

identifying a possible action to take based on the semantic information; and

determining whether to take the action before the entire utterance has been recognized.

8. Claims 22-24 are allowed because they further limit their parent claim.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Namba *et al.* (US Patent 5,555,169) disclose a system and method for translating a natural language input into a command through morphological analysis.

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Martin (US Patent 5,642,519) discloses a speech interpreter for an application that involves the definition of a set of allowable word sequences.

Jackson *et al.* (US Patent 6,292,767) disclose a method of building and running an application-specific natural language understanding system involving semantic analysis.

Bellegarda *et al.* (US Patent 6,836,760) disclose a method of translating a speech input into a command using a context-free grammar and semantic analysis.


11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minerva Rivero whose telephone number is (571) 272-7626. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis Ivars Smits can be reached on (571) 272-7628. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MR 5/9/2005



DAVID L. OMETZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER